



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

NEWS ADVISORY

Date: June 14, 2007

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North Carolina Man Pleads Guilty to Theft of County Funds

The Montgomery County Office of Inspector General announces an investigation has resulted in a North Carolina man, Rodney Lewis Jones, pleading guilty to a felony theft scheme involving County funds. The investigation revealed Mr. Jones defrauded the County by posing as a recovery agent for unclaimed funds. He presented letters and Powers of Attorney claiming to represent companies rightfully due the unclaimed funds. Based on Mr. Jones' assertions, the County issued checks to him through a business account he created. Mr. Jones deposited those checks into his business account and used the funds for personal expenses. The dollar loss to the County exceeded \$65,000.

On June 11, 2007, Mr. Jones pled guilty in Montgomery County Circuit Court to one count of Felony Theft Scheme. His sentencing is scheduled for August 2007.

The OIG is an independent office that serves as a watchdog to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in County Government departments and County-funded agencies. Its mission includes reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and operations.

An independent toll-free hotline, using a third-party contractor, has been established by the OIG to confidentially take calls from County Government employees and contractors. The hotline (1-800-971-6059) is available on a 24-hour basis, seven days a week.